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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9072
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 4080
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 7745
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9828
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1945
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5884
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6690
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - TURKEY-IRAQ

LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Wednesday morning include a GOJ panel recommendation to increase classroom hours at primary and middle schools.

"Concern About Instability in Middle East" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri editorialized (10/31): "The Turkish military plans to cross the country's border with Iraq and attack Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) rebels based there. Restraint is required from the Turkish government, as a new armed clash would raise the risks in an already-fluid Middle East.... The impact of a Turkish attack on PKK strongholds in northern Iraq would be enormous. The recent spike in oil prices following Ankara's decision to take a hard line clearly illustrates the potential impact of a military move by Turkey. The Kurdish area in northern Iraq is the only part of that country with stable public order, and the situation in Iraq would likely deteriorate if the Turkish Army were to invade. Additionally, what would be the reaction from Iran and Syria, which have restive Kurdish populations of their own? The situation in the Middle East could change rapidly depending on what Tehran and Damascus do.... The recent adoption by the US House of Representatives of a resolution on the genocide of Armenians has complicated the situation, as Turkey has toughened its attitude toward the US. America's 'unilateral' action together with Turkish public support for a cross-border attack on the PKK and growing anti-American sentiment in Turkey has undermined the Bush administration's diplomatic efforts."

SCHIEFFER